

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Production and Construction at Eisenhuettenkombinat Ost, Fuerstenberg/O	DATE DISTR.	20 February 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

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Production of pig iron

1. The total output during September of Furnaces II to III was 28,400 tons of usable pig iron.

Blast furnaces

2. Furnace I produced only 3,500 tons during September, and, as Furnace III is now in operation, it is to be closed down at the end of October and dismantled.

3. The daily output of Furnace II during September and the first half of October fluctuated between 375 and 515 tons. This was because of the irregular quality and varying degrees of hardness of the metallurgical coke supplied from Upper Silesia.

4. The output of Furnace III, which averaged 400 tons per day during the same period, was similarly affected by the unsatisfactory quality of the coke used. In all other respects, however, the furnace has operated satisfactorily and it has been found that the explosion which took place during testing in August when the throat stoppers blew off, caused comparatively little damage to the throat itself, and the masonry on the outside of the furnace remained intact.

5. The construction of Furnace IV continues in three shifts. Work has been delayed, however, by the fact that deliveries of structural steel from Poland ceased at the end of August and had not been resumed by the middle of October. Attempts to obtain alternative supplies have so far proved unsuccessful and it will in any case be impossible to complete Furnace IV until the dismantlement of Furnace I, from which a number of parts are to be obtained.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Administration

6. Four Russian engineer officers were appointed to Fuerstenberg early in September and are now responsible for the technical supervision of the works. They are in direct contact with the SCC in Karlshorst, from whom they are now attempting to obtain a guarantee that Fuerstenberg in the future will be supplied only with first quality iron ore from Krivoi Rog, and to ensure that the metallurgical coke supplied from Upper Silesia is of consistent quality. An investigation carried out by these officers of the various explosions which have occurred in the blast furnaces during recent months, has established that these were in all cases caused by the fact that the coke supplied from Poland had not been sufficiently de-gassed.

Steel Works

7. Great difficulty is being experienced in obtaining suitable gas generators for the open hearth furnaces. An order was originally placed with Kollergas, Berlin, for forty-two of these generators which are of the firm's own design. The engineers responsible for this design have recently absconded

, with the result that E.K.O. has been 25X1 compelled to seek its supplies elsewhere. An order has now been placed with VEB Mechanik Gaselan, Berlin. As, however, the VEB Gaselan model is considerably less efficient than the design by Kollergas, seventy-two generators will now be required instead of the forty-two originally planned. Considerable amendments to E.K.O.'s construction plan will therefore be required.

Transport

8. Workers' transport requirement were originally served by a fleet of buses of Hungarian manufacture powered by an Otto gasoline engine. Instructions have now been received that because of the shortage of gasoline in East Germany, these vehicles may no longer be operated. To assist workers, the management has issued a number of Czechoslovakian bicycles obtained from the E.O. Most of these have no tires, however, and the recipients have been unofficially instructed to obtain tires

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